

Castro Says U.S. Sends Troops to Latin America

HAVANA (AP) — Prime Minister Fidel Castro charged last night that the U.S. government, in a panic over revolutionary activity in Bolivia, Guatemala, Colombia and Venezuela, has sent in 1,000 Green Beret troops.

He said U.S. Special Forces men are pouring into Bolivia from Panama disguised as tourists. But he said the lesson of Vietnam was that imperialists have been unable to destroy revolution.

"For every Green Beret the imperialists send, revolutionary movements will answer with Red Berets," the Communist leader declared in a two-hour speech celebrating the sixth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

"The only road for the people of Latin America is that revolution be started this very day."

Castro called the summit conference of Western Hemisphere presidents at Punta del Este last week "a tremendous failure." The conference's plans for a Latin-American Common Market were a U.S. plot to get more raw materials at cheaper prices, he charged.

The crowd in a Havana theater gave Castro two minutes of standing applause when he mentioned his missing guerrilla comrade Ernesto (Che) Guevara.

"Imperialists ask 'Where's Che?' To preserve the health of the Green Berets it is better that they don't find out," Castro said.

He said Guevara "is in magnificent health" and "is ready for an armed guerrilla fight."

Scoffing at rumors about Guevara's whereabouts, he added: "The imperialists have presented him everywhere. They have killed him dozens of times."

Cuban officials on Sunday distributed a message which they said came from Guevara calling for revolutionaries to create "two or three — many Vietnams." The message was accompanied by photographs purportedly of Guevara, but former associates of the guerrilla leader said in Miami that the man in the pictures had different features.

"The resurrection of Che makes the imperialists truly worried," said Castro.